

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19

IO-14 DRC-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 /137 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3120

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3906

LONDONFOR GLEYSTEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: ISRAEL'S PALESTINIAN WEEK

1. FOCUS OF ISRAELI PRESS OVER PAST WEEK HAS BEEN ON PALESTINIAN
ISSUE, WITH NUMBER OF COMMENTATORS URGING GOI TO RETHINK ITS
POSITION ON THIS TOPIC. SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE GENDERLY SUGGESTED
THAT GOI MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH PLO AND,
ABHORRENT AS THIS THOUGHT IS, MIGHT AS WELL FACE UP TO THIS FACT.
OTHER COMMENTATORS HAVE ADDRESSED OTHER ASPECTS OF ISSUE: ALLEGED
EROSION OF US POSITION OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE, HUSSEIN'S "HARDENING"
POSITION RE DISENGAGEMENT ON WEST BANK,
SADAT'S SUPPOSED PRECONDITION THAT ISRAEL ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS
WITH JORDAN PRIOR TO MOVING ON TO SECOND STAGE WITH EGYPT, ETC.
CONCURRENT WITH ALL OF THESE STORIES ARE REPORTS THAT GOI WILL
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"RECOGNIZE A PALESTINIAN ENTITY" AND THAT GOI WILL MEET NEXT WEEK

TO FORMULATE NEW POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN PRIOR TO ALLON TRIP TO WASHINGTON.

2. VARIOUS POLITICIANS HAVE ALSO URGED OVER PAST WEEK THAT GOI COME TO GRIPS WITH PALESTINIAN ISSUE. LIKUD MK SHMUEL TAMIR HAS CALLED FOR KNESSET DEBATE AT EARLY DEBATE IN WAKE OF PRESS REPORTS RE UPCOMING CABINET MEETING ON PALESTINIAN ENTITY ISSUE.

3. MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL REFORM (SHINUI), HEADED BY DEAN OF TEL AVIV LAW SCHOOL AMNON RUBINSTEIN, ISSUED MANIFESTO JULY 11 URGING GOI "REALISTICALLY AND SPEEDILY" TO FOSTER AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. MANIFESTO WENT ON TO SAY THAT PALESTINIAN ISSUE WAS MOST URGENT PROBLEM FACING ISRAEL TODAY AND THAT "DELAY IN HANDLING THE ISSUE ONLY EXACERBATES IT AND CONTRIBUTES TO OUR ISOLATION IN THE WORLD." MANIFESTO WAS SIGNED BY VARIOUS WELL-KNOWN ISRAELIS INCLUDING LABOR MKS LOVA ELIAV, YITZHAK BEN-AHARON, MICHA HARISH, YOSEF SARID AND LIKUD MAYOR OF TEL AVIV SHLOMO LHAHT. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY EXECUTIVE JULY 11 UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO URGE GOI TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN "AND OTHER PALESTINIAN ENTITIES."

4. IN ADDITION PRIME TIME TV DISCUSSION PROGRAM WAS DEVOTED THIS WEEK TO PALESTINIAN ISSUE WITH EX-CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE MEIR AMIT AND MOKED MK MEIR PEIL URGING GOI TO COME TO TERMS WITH EXISTENCE OF PALESTINIANS AND ADOPT NEW POLICY IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. COMMENT. DESPITE ALL THE SOUND AND FURY OVER PALESTINIAN ISSUE OVER PAST WEEK, WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATIONS OF ANY NEW THINKING YET ON PART OF GOI. KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT THIS IS THE CASE. POSSIBILITY THAT NRP MIGHT REJOIN THE COALITION ADDS COMPLICATING FACTOR IN TERMS OF TIMING OF FORMULATION NEW POLICIES. TO WIT, IF NEW POLICY IS ADOPTED PRIOR TO NRP COMING INTO COALITION, IT MIGHT MEAN THAT NRP WOULD REFUSE TO REJOIN COALITION. ON OTHER HAND, DELAYING DECISION UNTIL NRP JOINS MIGHT VERY WELL MAKE IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO ARRIVE AT ANY DECISION

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6. AS IT STANDS NOW, ISRAELI POLICY SEEMS TO BE ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED: NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, NO SEPARATE PALESTINIAN ENTITY ON WEST BANK AND NEGOTIATIONS RE FUTURE OF PALESTINIANS AND WEST BANK WITH HUSSEIN AT SOME UNSPECIFIED DATE IN THE FUTURE. VELIOTES

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